

Hunt-Stambach House  
404 West Montecito Street  
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County  
California

HABS No. CAL-241

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11.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT  
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAL-241  
Page 1

HUNT-STAMBACH HOUSE

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CONTENTS

REPORT

Prepared by David Gebhard, August 1965

Part I:	HISTORICAL INFORMATION	Page 2
	References	Page 4
Part II:	ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION	Page 5

PHOTOGRAPHS

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer, October 1960

WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS  
DETAIL OF ENTRANCE (South Elevation)  
STAIR HALL  
LIVING ROOM (North Wall)  
PARLOUR FIREPLACE (West Wall)  
DETAIL OF CEILING ROSETTE

SKETCH OF FIRST FLOOR PLAN by David Gebhard, August 1965  
SKETCH OF SECOND FLOOR PLAN by David Gebhard, August 1965

Hunt-Stambach house

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## Part I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Name: Hunt-Stambach House
- B. Location: 404 West Montecito Street  
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, Calif.
- C. Present owner: Assistance League of Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, California
- D. Present Occupant: Assistance League of Santa Barbara
- E. Present use: Headquarters of the Assistance League  
of Santa Barbara.
- F. Brief Statement of Significance: A well preserved and maintained Italianate house of the late 19th century designed by the San Francisco architect Peter J. Barber. The early occupants of this house, first Col. C. C. Hunt and later Dr. Henry Stambach were both closely associated with the growth and development of Santa Barbara.
- G. Physical History:
1. Original and subsequent Owners: Col. Charles C. Hunt, 1879-1891; Dr. Henry Stambach, 1891- ? remained in possession of family; purchased by the Assistance League of Santa Barbara, 1955.
  2. Date of Erection: The house was designed in 1879; construction started in March of the same year and it was completed in early 1880.
  3. Architect: Peter J. Barber, an architect who practiced both in Santa Barbara and earlier in San Francisco. P. J. Barber was born in Nelson, Ohio in 1830. Before coming to California in the gold rush". . . he devoted much spare time in the rudimentary studies of architecture and building." (Yda Addis Storke, 1891, p. 555) He came to California and to San Francisco in 1852, along with a group from his native state of Ohio. He began his California career, first as a cabinet maker; then during the years 1856-58 he started contracting for buildings. He is credited with studying architecture with Rueben Clark, the architect of the California State Capitol Building. During the years 1858 to 1869 he practiced both as an architect and as a contractor in San Francisco. For reasons of health he moved south and settled in Santa Barbara. During his years in Santa Barbara, he designed a large number of the governmental, commercial and residential buildings.

These included: The Second Santa Barbara County Courthouse, the first Public Library, the San Marcos (Santa Barbara) College Building, the first Arlington Hotel, the Thomas P. Dibble house, Gaspar Orena house and many others. He also engaged in a number of different businesses and was twice elected Mayor of Santa Barbara.

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on Alterations and Additions: The house was originally located on the east side of State Street between East Anapamu and East Victoria Street. At its first location it faced West. In 1891 it was moved to the south side of West Victoria Street and Mora Villa Avenue. At this site it faced north. In 1955 the house was moved to 404 West Montecito, where it now faces south.

The bath and passage-closet off the downstairs bedroom may have been added at a later date. The small rear porch at the northwest corner of the house has been enclosed and the wall dividing it from the kitchen and the pantry has been removed. The second floor bath, closet and passage may have been part of the upstairs hall. The front porch off the library was enclosed sometime after the house was moved to its East Victoria Street location. It would also seem reasonable to assume that the present very wide opening between the living room and dining room was much smaller. The thickness of the stub-walls would argue that the walls to each side housed sliding doors.

6. Important old views:
  - a. Photograph of house at State Street location, ca. 1885; photograph in the collection of the Santa Barbara Public Library, no. 108; identical photograph in the collection of the Santa Barbara Historical Society.
  - b. Panormaic view of the city of Santa Barbara, published in Santa Barbara, ca. 1887.
  - c. Photograph of downtown Santa Barbara, ca. 1922-25; collection, Title Insurance and Trust Co., Santa Barbara.
  - d. Photograph of house at Victoria Street location before it was moved to Montecito Street. Published in Santa Barbara News Press, February 18, 1955.
  - e. Sketch of house at State Street location. (drawn from ca. 1885 photograph) Noticias, Vol. 1, no. 1, April, 1955, p. 3.

7. Historical events connected with structure:  
Colonel Charles C. Hunt was an early influential member of the community. Dr. Henry Stambach practiced as a physician in Santa Barbara.
8. References:
- a. The house
- 1) Noticias, (Santa Barbara Historical Society)  
Vol. 1, No. 1, April, 1955, p. 3.
  - 2) Santa Barbara News Press  
February 18, 1955  
August 4, 1961
- b. Peter J. Barber:
- 1) "P. J. Barber," California Architect and Building News, Vol. 5, September, 1884, p. 165.
  - 2) Biography in Mrs. Yda Addis Storke, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, pp. 553-557.
  - 3) Santa Barbara News Press. April 25, 1954
  - 4) Whithey, Henry F. and Withey, E. R. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), New Age Publishing Co., Los Angeles, 1956, pp. 35-36.

David Gebhard  
August 4, 1965

## Part II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. Name: Hunt-Stambach house  
Address: 404 West Montecito Street  
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, Calif.
- B. Number of stories: two plus the third floor cupola.
- C. Type of wall construction: wood
- D. Layout: Central hall, two story house.
- E. General Statement: Architectural interest and merit.  
A fine example of a provincial California version of an Italianate house. The wood detailing of the house, especially as evidenced in the entablature over the windows, the bracketed eaves and in the cupola, the entrance and front porches is outstanding and is in excellent condition. The interior wood detailing, the three marble fireplaces and the stuccoed ceilings add a degree of architectural elegance and sophistication rarely encountered in 19th century Santa Barbara houses.
- F. General statement: Condition of fabric.  
In excellent condition.
- G. Detailed Description: General.  
All of the exterior wood trim, windows and doors appear to be original. The only changes in the exterior character of the house have been the enclosure of the front porch which would appear to have been accomplished after the house was moved to its second location, the enclosure of northwest rear porch and the new high window of the kitchen. The changes in the interior have already been mentioned. The foundation of concrete block and the utility connection are all new.
- H. Overall dimensions: Front 36' 5"; west side 29' 6"; plus rear extension 11' 11" x 36' 5"
- I. Foundation: Originally of cut stone, set in cement. Present foundation, reinforced concrete and concrete block.
- J. Wall construction: Both exterior and interior walls, 2" x 4" studs, 24" centers; covered on the exterior by horizontal painted wood siding; interior covered by wood lath and lime plaster.
- K. Porches: Originally four porches (all of wood)  
Entry porch 7' 10" x 7' 6"  
Front porch (now enclosed) 6' 0" x 14' 1"  
Northeast rear porch 6' 1" x 16' 6"

Northwest rear porch 6' 2" x 11' 11"

Front porch originally two steps above ground level (at State Street location).

- L. Chimneys: Originally there were four brick chimneys; one no longer in existence for the kitchen wing and three others for the downstairs fireplaces and upstairs stoves. The photograph of ca. 1885 indicates that the three latter chimneys were quite elaborate in design, with an arched opening in the center and a series of banded brick above. These chimneys have been replaced at a later date with chimneys of a simpler design.
- M. Openings: Doorways and doors.  
Dental pattern of molding used between glass transom and opening below of double front door. The double doors, with two upper glass areas per door and a paneled section below would seem to be original. A simple, rather heavy wood molding was used around all of the interior door and window openings. The interior four panel doors would appear to be original.
- N. Openings: Windows and shutters.  
With the exception of the non-opening arched windows of the cupola, the windows are all double hung, with a single vertical mullion being used in the lower and upper windows. A small bracketted entablature or "hood" is employed on the exterior over all of the windows.
- O. Roof: Shape and covering.  
Hipped roof over two story section of house and over the small centrally placed cupola. The double pitched roof over the front porch and over the one story rear section is very low in pitch. The roof over the entrance porch is almost flat. Original covering material not known; may have been metal or a composition roof. Presently covered with roll composition roofing.
- P. Roof: Cornic, Eaves.  
Eaves of main roof project out from walls around 30"; bold dental molding at junction of soffit of eaves and walls; eaves boxed in and supported by heavy wood brackets.
- Q. Roof: Cupola.  
A square 6' 9" cupola (with an interior 7' 5" high) reached by a steep stairway from the second floor hall, situated at the center of the main portion of the house. Cupola is covered by a low pitched hipped roof; the wide overhangs are supported by paired brackets

at each corner and like the eaves of the main roof a heavy dental molding at the junction of the soffit and the vertical wall surface. Two small arched windows occur in each of the four sides of the cupola.

R. Floor plan: (see attached plan of first and second floors)

1. First floor: Central hall ( 6' 10" x 19' 2" ) with staircase to right (east side); to left of hall-front parlor (14' x 14' 8"); dining room ( 14' x 13' 1" ) to rear and connected with living room by wide opening. To right of central hall, at the front, a library (13' 7" x 15' 2" ) ; front porch now enclosed and has been made a part of the library; downstairs bedroom ( 10' 2" x 13' 1" ) with bath and passage closet to rear of library. Back one story wing of house contains porch, kitchen (to which has been added what was a small pantry and a small second rear porch).
2. Second floor: to the left of central hall, front bedroom (14' x 15') over living room; rear bedroom (12' 11" x 14') over downstairs dining room. To the right of central hall is another bedroom (13' 7" x 15' 2" ) directly corresponding to the library below. A bath, a closet for the left front bedroom and a passage had been placed over the front part of the first floor entrance hall. A small steep stair case located between the left front and rear bedroom leads up to the cupola.

S. Stairways:

1. Main staircase, curved at end, turns back on self (with arched niche in wall) 20 steps with 7" risers and 11" treads. Lathed balustrades support curved rail; large newel post at start of stairs.
2. Stairs to cupola: 15 stairs with 10" risers and 8" treads. Lathed balustrade supports railing around stair wall within cupola.

T. Flooring:

6" tongue and groove fur throughout the house; painted in the upper hall.

U. Wall and ceiling finish:

Lime plaster on wood lath for walls and ceiling. Elaborate stucco relief (in basically circular form) occurs in the center of the ceiling of several of the rooms.

V. Interior doorways and doors:

Four panel doors and interior molding, all original.



- W. Interior trim: All of the principal rooms have a heavy wood cornice; the mop board with a series of receding moldings on top is quite high. Smaller cornice moldings were employed in the second floor rooms. All woodwork is painted.
- X. Hardware: The locks, white glass door knobs and the butt hinges of the principal interior and exterior doors appear to be original. The locks on the double hung windows would also seem to be original.
- Y. Lighting: All of the present light fixtures are probably not original.
- Z. Heating: Three fireplaces with marble faces and mantles downstairs; one in the front parlor, one in the adjoining dining room and one in the library. A wood stove for cooking and heating was originally in the kitchen. Wood burning stoves were originally used in the upstairs bedrooms.
- AA. Site: Present location the third site for the house. At the first location on State Street the house faced west; at the second location on West Victoria Street the house faced north; present location on Montecito Street, it faces south.
- BB. Present site: The present site is on the northwest corner of West Montecito Street and Castillo Street. Two of the other corners of this intersection are occupied by gas stations; the third is still occupied by a private residence. To the west and north of the Hunt-Stambach house is the property owned by the Santa Barbara Historical Society. On this property is situated the historic Trussell-Winchester adobe and the historic Fernald house.
- CC. Enclosures: At its State Street site (as it appears in a photograph ca. 1885) there was a horizontal wood painted board fence surrounding two sides of the property. Photographs do not reveal a fence at its West Victoria Street location, nor has a fence been used at its present site.
- DD. Out Buildings: No out buildings of any size visible in the photographs of house at its State Street site.. The view of the house at the West Victoria Street location shows a two story gable roofed barn at the rear of the property.
- EE. Walks and Driveways: all modern
- FF. Landscaping: all modern

David Gebhard  
August 4, 1965

APPROVED: *Charles S. Pope*  
Charles S. Pope, AIA

DATE: *Sept 2, 1965*